

REMARKS

1. Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-14 and 16-19, as now amended, are not believed to be anticipated by Derner '131. For example, claim 1 recites, inter alia,

“said housing including a first grease passageway for providing grease into a said first chamber and a second grease passageway spaced away from said first grease passageway for providing grease into said second chamber”

thus clearly and structurally distinguishing the present trunnion assembly over Derner '131.

Derner '131 discloses a housing having a single inlet fitting to provide grease to two grease chambers through a branched passageway including an axial passageway 94 and a transverse passageway 96. The present assembly includes two grease inlets that supply grease to separate grease chambers through two separate passageways. This feature provides the important advantage of allowing for the use of different greases in respective chambers in those circumstances where it is appropriate. Furthermore, in supplying grease in the instant invention, grease is applied to the chamber adjacent the mortar drum to make sure that any water and mortar material is extruded back into the drum before re-greasing the chamber adjacent the bearing. Also, different greases well known in the art may be provided in each of applicant's chambers to maximize protection of shaft and of the bearing.

Claim 6 (currently amended) recites “each said housing including a pair of spaced grease fittings, a first passageway communicating between one of said grease fittings and said first chamber and a second passageway communicating between another said grease fittings and said second chamber”.

Claim 11 (currently amended) recites “said housing including a first grease fitting and a first passageway communicating between said first grease fitting and said first chamber and a second grease fitting spaced away from said first grease fitting and a second passageway spaced away from said first passageway communicating between said second grease fitting and said second chamber”.

Claim 16 (currently amended) recites “each said housing including a pair of spaced grease fittings and a pair of elongated spaced passageways respectively connected with respective said first and second chambers”.

While Derner '131 includes an annular gap 70 in FIG. 3, such gap is only for grease to enter from chamber 68 and outwardly of housing 51 of Derner '131. In contrast the

present assembly has a fundamentally different structure and purpose than that of the prior art, as set forth above.

The use of two distinct grease chambers and a sealing arrangement to direct grease in a predetermined direction during filling provides substantially improved protection for the shaft bearing that is not available with other prior art trunnion assemblies and similar sealing apparatus. The present invention ensures that contaminated grease will be directed back into the drum and completely excluded from the shaft bearing thereby substantially extending the bearing life and does so in a manner that cannot be accomplished with the Derner '131 apparatus.

Claims 5, 10, 15 and 20 have been cancelled because the substance of these claims has been incorporated into the currently amended claims.

Accordingly, claims 1 (currently amended)-4, 6 (currently amended)-9, 11 (currently amended)-14 and 16 (currently amended)-19 are believed to be patentable over the Derner '131 reference and any other prior art.

Applicant's undersigned attorney respectfully requests a telephone interview prior to any final action on the merits, to discuss any possible suggestions the Examiner may have or to consider any language changes that might further define applicant's invention with respect to the art of record.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: Feb. 03, 2005